



Monthly Report for June 2010

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Programs / Projects / Activities

- **Environmental Suitability Assessment:** Initial runs of all the features of the Land Suitability Analysis model were completed but the Land Preservation feature will continue to be the first feature to be “ground-truthed” and readjusted. We began coordinating with the Nebraska Land Trust to present the preliminary results to the Lower Platte River Working Group later this summer.

We are also currently evaluating and readjusting plans for the seminars that were planned as part of the outreach portion of the ESA. The survey stayed active through June and we sent several reminders about the survey to help boost what was a fairly low response rate. We are currently discussing having one larger seminar and then doing smaller individual meetings and series of communications with other stakeholders. We will be making the definite plans during the month of July.

- **Kayak tour:** Plans continued for the Kayak Tour schedule for Tuesday, July 20th. Registration was sent out on Wednesday, June 16th and by Monday, June 21st all 30 spots were filled. We have a number of people on the waiting list so we’re very pleased with the interest in the event. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. at Two Rivers State Recreation Area. We will shuttle people to Platte River Landing beginning at 8:30 a.m. NGPC personnel will provide a “Kayaking 101” and we will plan to begin paddling no later than 9:30. We should arrive back at Two Rivers by noon where we will have lunch and some brief presentations on the LPRCA, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, the Water Quality Monitoring Network (and recent flooding), and Nebraska Land Trust efforts in the Corridor.
- **LPRCA Summit:** Plans for the LPRCA Summit continued to progress. The Summit is planned for Thursday, October 2^{1st} at Mahoney State Park. I also continued planning the tour stops and itinerary for the afternoon portion of the Summit. Save the date cards went out in early June and registration will go out in late July. Again, the tentative schedule will be:

9 a.m. Plenary: Bob Wagner, Senior Policy & Program Advisor, American Farmland Trust

10 a.m.-11:30 panel discussion;

12 p.m. bus tour of sites within that area of the Lower Platte with boxed lunches;

4 p.m. reception

As always, any and all input is welcome and invited.

- **River Obstruction Removal:** Olsson Associates completed the survey of the river obstructions near Two Rivers State Recreation Area at the end of April and sent the preliminary results to me in early May. They also began the initial steps of the permitting process with the Corps of Engineers. In late May, I was notified by NGPC personnel of some potential changes or restrictions to the program where the LPRCA has received federal assistance for the obstruction removal project. I met with Kirk Nelson, Frank Albrecht, and Herb Angell of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to discuss the change in available funding early in June. The outcome of that meeting, as well as some follow up discussions Herb Angell had with the US Coast Guard Grant Officer, indicated that the river obstruction removal program was no longer eligible for funding. Olsson Associates has adjusted the timeline but has continued with the design and permitting portion of the Two River project.
- **Hormel Park Nature Center:** Tim Montgomery (NGPC) and I met with John Schmitz, City of Fremont Parks and Recreation Director about the potential development of a Nature Center in Hormel Park and connector trails to Two River State Recreation Area and Fremont City Trails. Tim and I plan to continue to work with John to assist with identify funding possibilities for the Nature Center and trails.

Upcoming meetings/conferences/events:

- July 20: Kayak Tour, Two Rivers State Recreation Area
- July 26: LPRCA Quarterly Meeting, 9:30 a.m. LPSNRD, Lincoln
- September 2: Water Quality Open, Quarry Oaks Golf Course
- October 6: UNL Water Law Conference, Holiday Inn, Lincoln, NE
- October 7: Greater Platte Basin Symposium, Holiday Inn, Lincoln, NE
- October 21: Lower Platte River Summit, Mahoney State Park--Riverview Lodge